

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

As indicated below, Applicant is amending Claims 1-4, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 15-17, 23, 27 and 30 and is canceling Claims 20-22, 25, 26 and 29 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 9, 11, and 19 remain as previously presented.

1. (Currently Amended) A backup and retrieval system for a network computing system, comprising:

a plurality of backup cells, each of the plurality of backup cells comprising:

a backup device executing a backup of data stored on at least one of a plurality of groups of network computing devices~~[[;]]~~ , and

a manager component, communicatively coupled to the ~~at least one backup device~~, controlling the backup of the data to the backup device; ~~[[and]]~~

each of the plurality of backup cells being communicatively coupled to at least one other backup cell among the plurality of backup cells~~[[;]]~~; and

each of the plurality of backup cells configured ~~configurable~~ to be controlled by the manager component in another backup cell among the plurality of backup cells.

2. (Currently Amended) The backup and retrieval system of claim 1, wherein the backup device of a first backup cell of the plurality of backup cells is controllable from the manager component in a second backup cell ~~another of the plurality of backup cells~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The backup and retrieval system of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2, wherein the backup device of the first backup cell is controllable from the manager component in the second backup cell ~~another of the plurality of backup cells~~ via the manager component in the ~~[[same]]~~ first backup cell ~~as the backup device~~.

4. (Currently Amended) A backup and retrieval system for a network computing system, comprising:

a first backup cell comprising:

at least one backup device executing a backup of data stored on a first group of network computing devices~~[[;]]~~ , and

a first manager component, the first manager component communicatively coupled to the at least one backup device and configured to control ~~controlling~~ the backup of the data to the at least one backup device; and

a second backup cell communicatively coupled to the first backup cell, the second backup cell comprising:

a second manager component, the second manager component configured to directly control ~~controlling~~ the backup of the data to the at least one backup device of the first backup cell.

5.-6. (Canceled).

7. (Currently Amended) The backup and retrieval system of claim 4, wherein the first group of network computing devices system comprises ~~comprising~~ a first network computing device, and wherein the first manager component is a software module executing on the first network computing device, ~~and the second manager component is a software module executing on the second network computing device.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The backup and retrieval system of claim 7, ~~the network computing system further comprising~~ a second network computing device, wherein the second manager component executes on the second network computing device.

9. (Previously Presented) The backup and retrieval system of claim 7 wherein the second manager component executes on the first network computing device.

10. (Currently Amended) A backup and retrieval system for a network computing system, comprising:

at least one backup device executing backup functions for data contained on a first group of network computing devices;

a first manager component executing on a first network computing device of the first group of network computing devices, the first manager component

being communicatively coupled to the at least one backup device and configured to control ~~controlling~~ the backup of the data to the at least one backup device;
and

a second manager component, communicatively coupled to the first network computing device, the second manager component configured to independently and directly control ~~controlling~~ the backup of the data to the at least one backup device.

11. (Previously Presented) The backup and retrieval system of claim 10 wherein the second manager component executes on the first network computing device.

12. (Currently Amended) The backup and retrieval system of claim 10, ~~the network computing system further comprising a second network computing device,~~ wherein the second manager component executes on the first network computing device.

13. (Currently Amended) The backup and retrieval system of claim 10, ~~the network computing system further comprising a second group of network computing devices containing~~ second data, wherein the second manager component controls a backup of the second data contained on the second group of network computing devices.

14. (Canceled).

15. (Currently Amended) The backup and retrieval system of claim 10, wherein the at least one backup device is controllable from the second manager component via the first manager component.

16. (Currently Amended) A backup and retrieval system for a network computing system, comprising:

at least one backup device executing backup functions for data contained on a first group of network computing devices;

a first network computing device, communicatively coupled to the at least one backup device, configured to control ~~controlling~~ the backup of the data

contained on the first group of network computing devices to the at least one backup device; and

a second network computing device, communicatively coupled to the first network computing device, the second network computing device configured to directly control ~~controlling~~ the backup of the data to the at least one backup device.

17. (Currently Amended) The backup and retrieval system of claim 16, the ~~network computing system~~ further comprising a second group of network computing devices containing second data, wherein the second network computing device controls a backup of the second data contained on the second group of network computing devices.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) The backup and retrieval system of claim 16, wherein the second network computing device controls the backup of the data to the at least one backup device via the first network computing device.

20.-22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) A backup and retrieval system for a network computing system, the backup and retrieval system comprising:

a plurality of backup cells, each of the plurality of backup cells comprising:

a backup device ~~executing for performing~~ a backup of data stored on at least one of a plurality of network computing devices[[:]];.

a media component, the media component configured to reside on and ~~[[to]]~~ execute on ~~any network computing device including a first network computing device[[,]]~~ and being communicatively coupled to at least one ~~the~~ backup device for controlling the backup of the data to the backup device[[:]];.

a client component, the client component configured to reside on and execute on ~~any network computing device including a second network computing device~~ [[and]], the client component being communicatively coupled to at least one ~~the~~ media component[[:],] and directing the media

component to backup the data according to operational parameters established by the client component~~[[;]]~~ , and

a manager component, the manager component configured to reside on and execute on ~~any network computing device including~~ a third network computing device ~~[[and]]~~, the manager component being communicatively coupled to ~~at least one~~ the client component~~[[,]]~~ and directing the client component to backup the data according to backup parameters ~~of the backup cell~~ established by the manager component; and

means for communicatively coupling each of the plurality of backup cells to at least one other of the plurality of backup cells, ~~[[and]]~~ wherein each of the plurality of backup cells ~~configurable~~ is configured to be controlled by the manager component of the at least one other ~~in another backup cell of the~~ plurality of backup cells.

24.-26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) A backup and retrieval system for a network computing system, comprising:

a plurality of backup cells, each of the plurality of backup cells comprising:

a backup device executing a backup of data stored on at least one of a plurality of network computing devices~~[[;]]~~, and

a manager component, residing on and configured to run on ~~[[any]]~~ one of the plurality of network computing devices and communicatively coupled to ~~at least one~~ the backup device, the manager component being configured to control ~~for controlling~~ the backup of the data to the backup device; and

means for communicatively coupling a first backup cell of the plurality of backup cells to at least one other backup cell of the plurality of backup cells, ~~whereby the first backup cell is capable of being~~ controlled by the manager component in the at least one other backup cell.

28. (Canceled)

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29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) The backup and retrieval system of claim 27, comprising means for controlling the backup device in [a] the first backup cell from the manager component in the at least one other ~~another of the plurality of backup cell cells~~ via the manager component in the first backup cell.